

Ablechild.org Raised Bill 54

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Ablechild appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony to the committee about the need to ENSURE that parents of any child interacting with security personnel be made aware of the existence, and availability, of the federal Food and Drug Administration's MedWatch System. As part of an act concerning collaboration between boards of education and law enforcement personnel, parents should be provided verbal and written information about the MedWatch System.

This is to ensure that parents are informed of the availability of the MedWatch System when their child is involved with security personnel, a necessary part of informed consent.

What Ablechild is proposing does NOT require additional funding.

The FDA's MedWatch System was instituted in 1993 and is intended to provide important information to the federal agency from health care professionals and consumers. The reporting of drug adverse events to MedWatch can prompt the FDA to act on updating safety information, make labeling changes, influence how patients receiving drug products should be monitored, and issue warnings, safety messages and even prompt drug recalls.

The MedWatch system is completely voluntary, private and there are no costs associated with its use.

Due to the lack of knowledge about the MedWatch system, the FDA acknowledges that it receives less than one percent of all adverse reactions that actually occur.

The MedWatch system is the front-line defense against products that may pose safety hazards to consumers and, in short, saves lives.

The Sandy Hook investigation revealed how the MedWatch system could have benefited Nancy Lanza had the information been provided.

Despite advising the healthcare professional at the Yale Child Study Center that Adam Lanza had experienced an adverse reaction to the antidepressant he had been prescribed, no information about reporting this adverse event to MedWatch was provided to Nancy Lanza. Nor is there any record of the healthcare provider reporting the event to MedWatch.

It is precisely this type of information that the FDA wants to know. Yet, as is seen in the case of Nancy Lanza's concerns about the drug Adam was prescribed, no one made any effort to report the adverse reaction to MedWatch.

Ablechild is simply requesting that collaboration between boards of education and law enforcement personnel provide parents with verbal and written information about the MedWatch System.

As this bill focuses on a safe school setting, it is important to remind lawmakers that there currently are 70 million Americans prescribed mind-altering drugs.

There is no downside to implementing a MedWatch education program in the State.

Thank you.